

WATER RATES, FEES AND ALTERNATIVES RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Fair and reasonable rates

- Eliminate flat or fixed water and sewer rates and tie rates to volume of water used; use preferred (lower) rates for those using less water or reusing water; use seasonal (higher) rates or temporary drought surcharges during periods of water scarcity;
- Establish a “consumption per capita” standard which considers household size; consider an excess use rate over the standard rate.

2. Fees

- Consider a Water Allocation fee for all water users, public and private; prepare a list of WAP initiatives that the fee would pay for; conduct a feasibility analysis regarding program implementation (user groups, fee collection process, administering authority, restricted receipts, etc.)
- Consider other fees, such as impact fees, system development fees, pump fees.

3. Alternatives

- **Billing Standardization:** encourage suppliers to increase frequency of billing, depict # of days in the billing cycle, show consumption history, and reserve space for conservation messages; encourage suppliers to convert HCF to gallons on bills; encourage suppliers to follow national accounting standards for the industry; investigate combined water and wastewater billing or education
- Revise state plumbing and building codes and/or local ordinances to require water efficient fixtures and appliances and water meter installation. Equip irrigation meters with sensors for automatic shut off